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Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00
USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02
SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 AF-10
PRS-01 H-01 /124 W
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R 211712Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6352
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12060

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN. EFIN. UN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: ECOSOC AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 166499; (B) LONDON 10894; (C) LONDON
11848

SUMMARY.HMG POSITION ON CONVENING DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM THAT REPORTED IN REFTELS B AND C (PARA 7), I.E., BEING WILLING TO PARTICIPATE BUT BELIEVING THAT 1978 DATE MOST LIKELY TOO EARLY.

1. FCO CONTACT STATED THAT WHILE HMG WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE REGARDING ILLICIT PAYMENTS HAD NOT CHANGED, IT WAS STILL TOO SOON TO MAKE A COMMITMENT REGARDING A DATE, CONSIDERING THE AMOUNT OF PREPARATORY WORK WHICH WAS CONSIDERED NECESSARY. 1978 WAS, HOWEVER, PROBABLY TOO EARLY. IT WAS FELT THAT THE

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WORK OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF ECOSOC WHICH IS DUE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WOULD GIVE SOME INDICATION OF THE PROGRESS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE. ONE IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF PROGRESS TO HMG WOULD BE THE WILLINGNESS TO EXPAND THE WORKING GROUP TO INCLUDE THE UK AND SEVERAL OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES NOT NOW PART OF THE WORKING GROUP. IT WAS FELT THAT THE GROUNDWORK WHICH

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AN EXPANDED WORKING GROUP COULD DO WOULD BE ESSENTIAL PREPARATION TO A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE. AT THE SAME TIME. LEGAL DEPARTMENTS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN WORK ON DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS WHICH REQUIRE TIME TO SORT OUT.

2. AS FAR AS THE G-77 WAS CONCERNED, IT WAS FELT THAT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AN EXPANDED WORKING GROUP WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF G-77 WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT AN AGREEMENT.

3. PROPOSED TEXT TO BE INCLUDED IN PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH AS REPORTED IN REFTEL (A) WAS FAVORABLY COMMENTED UPON BY FCO OFFICIAL, THOUGH IT WAS QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WAS "A BIG ENOUGH CARROT FOR THE G-77."

4. ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PAYMENTS ISSUE, IT WAS REITERATED THAT THE INCLUSION OF PAYMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA IN AN ILLICIT PAYMENT AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE THE AGREEMENT UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UK, BUT THAT THE UK WOULD BE WILLING TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO RHODESIA.

5. THE U.S. POSITION ON REFERENCES TO UNGA RESOLUTIONS WAS CONSIDERED SENSIBLE.

BREWSTER

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